

*Elke Jordan*

204 Morris Avenue  
Lutherville, Md  
August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1958

Prof. J. Lederberg  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Thank you so much for your kind letter and especially the helpful advice which you gave. I have carefully considered the advantages of going to medical school one more year, but have decided that the atmosphere there is such that I would lose all my spirit of inquiry and, furthermore, I do not intend ever to go into a medical field. If I really need to know some of the material taught in the second year, there are always ways of learning it. I have noticed this summer how much out of practice I am in thinking critically and creatively. Also I find that the type of approach used in teaching at medical school minimizes all those facts which become important in experimental work. Therefore

that is not the place to get training for such work.

I am sorry that it is impossible for you to take any more students this year, though I am delighted at the reason for this. The program you will set up at Stanford sounds like a splendid idea and will, I am sure, be welcome to many. I already know of several people who have left medicine for basic research and had a hard time getting started because of inadequate training. I wish you great success for your venture!

I have finally made up my mind about what to do this coming year and it is to stay at the Hopkins, where I have now worked myself into a project and where I feel I can learn what I am interested in.

Thank you again for the interest you took in my problem.

Very sincerely yours,

Elke Jordan